

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2019

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street N.W., Room 7000
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro:

We write to request that the Government Accountability Office conduct an independent review of the distribution of Federal Budget receipts and expenditures across the United States.

As you may know, there is an imbalance between the amount that residents of each state pay to the federal government in tax revenue and the benefits they receive from the federal government in the form of grants, contracts, direct payments, and other federal programs. Some states, including Illinois, pay more in taxes to the federal government than they receive in federal services.

Unfortunately, the federal government does not currently track how much each state receives in federal funds, nor the size of the imbalance between payments and returns. Having this information readily available would enable more accurate estimations of the true costs and benefits of federal programs to the residents of each state, providing legislators with another way to gauge the value of the legislation they will have the option to fund.

The Internal Revenue Service releases data on official sources of tax receipts by state, but this data is not designed to assess the actual costs of taxes on a state-by-state basis. Further, the federal government's current compilation of spending data, USASpending.gov, is a far from complete record of all federal government expenditures.

In order for federal policymakers to assess the relative values and costs of federal programs, they need accurate information on how much states are actually contributing to, and receiving from, the federal government. Ensuring the availability of comprehensive data is a vital step toward a fully transparent examination of which states are gaining and which are losing under the current system. In particular, we request a study include the following:

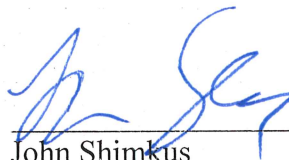
1. A state-by-state examination of where Federal funds are generated and spent;
2. An analysis of the balance of payments differential across the states; and
3. The primary explanations for those differences.

We appreciate your attention to this request. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Gary Timmins at (202) 225-3515 or at Gary.Timmins@mail.house.gov.

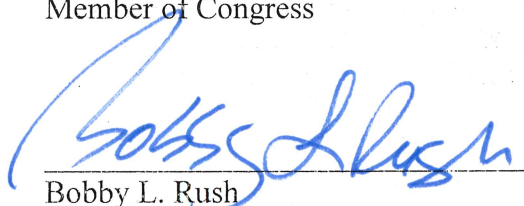
Sincerely,



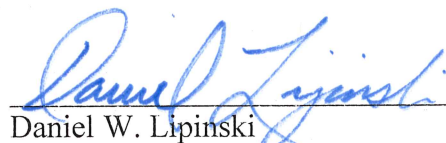
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



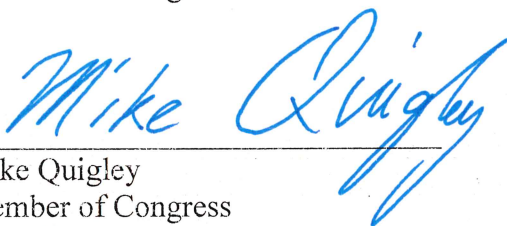
John Shimkus
Member of Congress



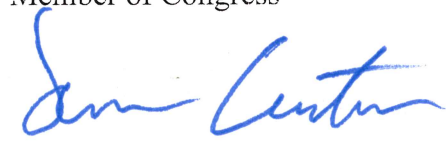
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



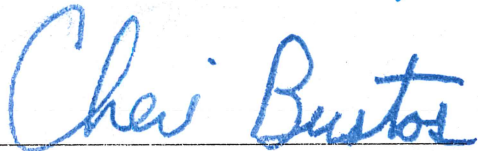
Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



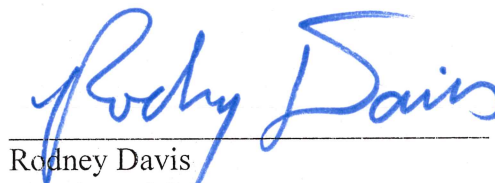
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress




Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



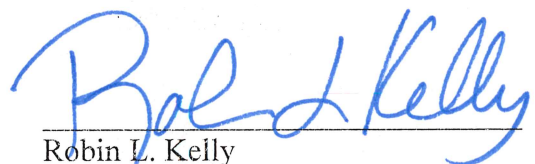
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



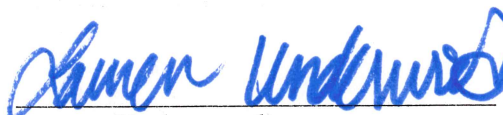
Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia
Member of Congress



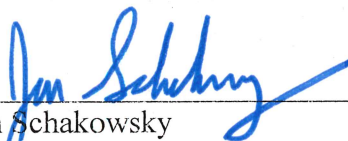
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress